

Section I (Amendments to the Claims)

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4 and 11 as set out in the following listing of the claims 1-13 of the application.

Please cancel claim 3, without prejudice.

1. (Currently amended) A method of storing and/or transporting *in vitro* organized, differentiated, polarized and functionally active two-dimensional cell cultures, which comprises the following steps:

a) coating an organized, differentiated, polarized and functionally active two-dimensional cell culture that is immobilized on an asymmetric support with a gelatin solution in the culture medium at a concentration of between 1 and 5 %, said cell culture comprising cells in suitable functional state,

b) solidifying the gelatin added to the support at a temperature of between 15 and 25°C, and

c) storing and/or transporting the cell culture at a temperature of between 15 and 25°C for a period of up to 96 hours.

2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, which comprises the additional steps:

a) liquefaction of the gelatin ~~gelatine~~,

b) elimination of the gelatin and substitution thereof by a culture medium, and

c) incubation of the culture.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the cell culture is selected from among: Huvec cells, grown to confluence on a collagen support and differentiated Caco-2 cells, and other types of cells capable of growing in monolayers.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said gelatin solution comprises a 2.5% gelatin solution.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the gelatin is solidified at a temperature of between 15 and 25°C, for a period of between 30 minutes and 12 hours.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the asymmetric support comprises a transwell-type support.
8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2 wherein the gelatin liquefaction is performed between 35 and 40°C for a period of 1 to 4 hours.
9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein the gelatin liquefaction is performed at 37°C.
10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2 wherein the incubation of the culture is performed at between 35 and 40°C for a period of between 1 hour and 8 days.
11. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the subsequent incubation of the culture is performed at 37°C.
12. (Previously Presented) A kit for storing and/or transporting *in vitro* two-dimensional cell cultures according to claim 1, comprising:
 - (i) an asymmetric support, and
 - (ii) a gelatin solution in culture medium at a concentration of between 1 and 5%.
13. (Previously Presented) A kit according to claim 12, wherein the asymmetric support comprises a transwell-type support.